

In the claims:

Applicant hereby restates the claims of the present application as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A support system for at least one water drivable turbine ~~that~~ when in operation is immersed in a column of flowing water, ~~characterised by comprising~~ a deck ~~or raft (3)~~ for supporting said at least one turbine when immersed, the deck ~~or raft~~ having an inherent buoyancy whereby the deck ~~or raft~~ is adapted for flotation when it is desired to raise the associated at least one turbine ~~or turbines~~ above water level.
2. (Currently amended) A support system for a least one water drivable turbine ~~(1)~~ that when in operation is immersed in a column of flowing water, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the system includes a deck ~~or raft (3)~~ for supporting said at least one turbine when immersed, the deck ~~or raft (3)~~ having an inherent buoyancy which is such as to enable the deck ~~or raft (3)~~ to rise through the column of water upon reduction of the buoyancy, the arrangement being such that the associated at least one turbine ~~or turbines~~ can be raised above the surface of said column.
3. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in claim 1 or 2, ~~and characterised in that the support system is characterised in that~~ wherein the deck ~~or raft (3)~~ has a rectangular cross section in a horizontal plane.
4. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in ~~2 or~~ claim 3, ~~and characterised in that~~ wherein the deck ~~or raft (3)~~ has a planar smooth surface of approximately rectangular form with rounded corners ~~or slightly curved edges~~ ~~plan form~~ when viewed from directly above.
5. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4, and characterised in that~~ claim 3 wherein the rectangular deck ~~or raft (3)~~ is of such construction as to be free from undesired flexural movements ~~the arrangement~~.

6. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 1 or 2, and characterised in that the~~ wherein an upper surface of the deck, ~~raft (3)~~ exhibits an even and smooth surface immediately below the at least one turbine ~~or a row of turbines (1)~~ mounted thereupon, the arrangement being such that the presence of the deck ~~or raft~~ upper surface serves to enhance the evenness of water flow over the surface thereof as compared with the flow over the generally rough and uneven surface of natural river or sea beds.

7. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 1 or 2, and characterised in that~~ further comprising anchoring means pivotally connected to the deck ~~or raft is pivotally connected to the~~ anchoring means (6) being set into the river or sea bed ~~by way of with~~ struts (5) connected one to each opposite end of the deck ~~or raft (3)~~, the length of the struts (5) being such as to enable the deck ~~or raft~~ to be displaceable between a lowered position sufficient to immerse the at least one turbine ~~(s) (1)~~ and a raised position in which the ~~is/are~~ at least one turbine is above water level.

8. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in claim 7, and ~~characterised in that the deck or (3) is arranged to rest at each said end thereof upon~~ further comprising a support (4) upstanding from the river or sea bed (SB), ~~the arrangement being such that~~ upon which the deck or raft when immersed is set to rest at an optimum position above a river or sea bed (SB).

9. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in claim 7 or 8, and ~~characterised in that~~ further comprising location means provided at the underside of the deck for contacting the supports (4) ~~are adapted to locate with a complementary location means (9) provided at the underside of the deck or raft when the letter~~ deck is in its immersed position.

10. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in claim 7, 8 or 9, and ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the anchor points (6) anchoring means for the struts (5) ~~comprise piles or ground anchors~~ positionally set into the river or sea bed.

11. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in claim 7, ~~8, 9 or 10, and characterised in that the~~ further comprising pivotal connections ~~8)~~ associated with the struts ~~are such as~~ to facilitate articulation of the associated struts ~~(5)~~ in such manner that the struts ~~(5)~~ are rotatable through a vertically disposed arc relative to the river or sea bed ~~(SB)~~.

12. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 7, ~~to and characterised in that~~ wherein the struts, when the deck ~~or raft~~ is in its lowered position, are arranged to be horizontal in the direction of the water flows with respect to the turbines at least one turbine when operating, the arrangement being such as counteract thrust forces arising from said water flows

13. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 7, ~~to 12, and characterised in that~~ wherein the deck ~~or platform~~ is of streamlined cross-section and has a convex upper surface ~~and a flat, concave or convex lower surface~~, the arrangement being such as to increase the mean water flow velocity through the turbine rotors, in such manner as to improve their power output.

14. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in claim 7 ~~any one of claims 7 to 13, and characterised in that the~~ profiling of wherein the deck ~~or raft~~ is ~~such as~~ profiled to reduce water flow velocity shear in such manner as to reduce/offset turbulent flow through the turbine rotors, to enhance efficiency of turbine energy capture and to reduce fatigue loads on the turbine rotors.

15. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in ~~any one of claims 7 to 14, and characterised in that~~ claim 8, wherein the supports are arranged to be height ways adjustable whereby the height of the immersed deck ~~or raft~~ ~~(3)~~ can be adjusted to accommodate sea bed conditions.

16. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in ~~any one of claims 7 to and characterised in that where~~ claim 7, further comprising two or more supports

~~(4) are provided~~ and adjustment means ~~are provided~~ for enabling adjustability of the support height to ~~enabling levelling~~ enable leveling of the deck or raft (3) ~~as to~~ accommodate unevenness in the sea bed level ~~when two or more supports are utilised to support the deck or raft (3).~~

17. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 7 to 16, and characterised in that claim 8, and characterised in that~~ wherein the support (12) for the immersed deck or raft (3) extends across the full width of the deck or (3), the arrangement being such that no significant passage is provided for water to pass beneath the deck or raft (3) whereby substantially all of the water flowing towards the deck or raft is caused to travel over the deck or raft thereby to enhance the mean velocity of the water passing through the at least one turbine (s).

18. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in claim 15, ~~and characterised in that~~ wherein the support (12) is weightwise loaded so as to enhance its stability.

19. (Currently amended) A support system as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 1 or 2, and characterised in that~~ wherein the deck or raft (3) is arranged to have neutral buoyancy, the arrangement being such as to facilitate the raising and lowering thereof relative to the sea bed (SB).